



Causes of Juvenile Delinquency and its Impact on the Environment

Mithu Bag¹ & Dr. SindhuBala²

1. Research Scholar, OPJS University, Department of Education, mail_id: bg.mithu@rediffmail.com
2. Assistant Professor OPJS University, Churu, Rajasthan.

Abstract: Behaviours that are violent are learnt. Witnessing physical abuse or other forms of domestic violence may expose children at a young age. According to studies, these types of early exposure to violence might raise the likelihood of aggressive behaviour in adolescents by up to 40%. Children are at danger of becoming violent adults regardless of whether they see or experience violence at home. This is because children are less likely to have strong social ties and restrictions, and parents are less likely to teach them traditional values and conventions. Learning and indulging in violence may also be seen in certain neighbourhoods. There is a lot of exposure to violence, as well as violent role models and positive reinforcement for violent behaviour, in communities where gangs and illicit markets are prevalent, especially in drug distribution networks. School has the ability to bring its own brand of conflict, anger, and aggressive reactions to these problems, even if patterns of behaviour learnt in early infancy do continue over into school. Evidence suggests that teenage gun ownership is higher among drug traffickers, ex-offenders, and those who did not complete high school. There are two main consequences associated with aggressive behaviour, according to research, and they are growing up in low-income, minority households and chaotic neighbourhoods. To start, fewer job options mean fewer marriage prospects when it's time to shift into adulthood. Secondly, it is the natural process of teenage growth to dwell impoverished, disordered neighbourhoods, according to the research. Many youths' lives have been devastated by juvenile delinquency, which is a serious issue. Many people, including teens, their families, and the larger community, feel the ripple effects of juvenile delinquency and associated problems. Crime victims aren't the only ones this problem impacts. The home, the job, and society as a whole are all touched by the effects of juvenile delinquency. The most visible victims are those who are involved in juvenile delinquency. Socioeconomic and psychological problems on their families and society at large are the most severe repercussions of adolescent crimes. Sometimes, mental health disorders have a substantial role in the involvement of juveniles in violent crimes such as robberies, rapes, and assaults. The illegal activities of youth lead them to develop a tolerance for alcohol and other drugs. Examining the mental health and legal implications of adolescent misbehavior is the primary goal of this research.

Keywords: Child, Juvenile, Delinquency, Crime, Law.

Introduction: Legally speaking, when underage people commit crimes before the legally mandated age of 18, it is called juvenile delinquency. A status offence is often used to describe less severe offences committed by individuals under the age of 18.

According to the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015, a “child” is defined as a person who is below 18 years of age. The Act distinguishes between children who are in conflict with the law and those who are in need of care and protection”. Juvenile delinquency is an important social problem. It has an inevitable presence in

all societies. But it is different in nature and dimensions. Every child is born on fitrat or nature-religion Islam. His parents and socio-economic environment led him to deviate from Islam. As a result, children and adolescents deviate from human values and rush towards criminal tendencies. Juvenile delinquency is on the rise all over the world and it can become a serious social disorder in no time. Which creates obstacles in the way of overall welfare of a society or state. Islam is the only perfect way of life chosen by Allah. Juvenile delinquency is given a very important place in Islam as a perfect way of life. Children and youth are the future leaders of the country and nation. The progress of the country and nation depends on their development and progress. The role of family, society and state is immense in the healthy and normal development of children and adolescents. No one wants a section of them to be associated with crime for any reason and become a serious threat to future generations and a hindrance to healthy social life. That is why Islam has presented universal and benevolent policies to raise children and adolescents healthy, normal and beautiful and lead a crime-free life. Which if implemented in practice, the family can get the desired peace and the country and the nation can get invaluable resources.

“We are continuously alarmed by the cost implications of policies developed to incarcerate juvenile delinquents, yet we are more concerned with outcomes of those policies that have little effect on improving public safety as well as improving the well-being of adolescents. In 1960, for the 12th consecutive year, delinquency cases increased over the previous year. The increase was 6% while the child population, aged ten through seventeen, increased by only 2%. Over this period, the increase in delinquency cases exceeded the increase in the child population”. (U.S. Children's Bureau, 1960) Violence has had a devastating impact on our entire society and on adolescents in particular. Crime in the United States is too high. According to Jones and Krisberg (1994), “America's youth are being killed in record numbers. Teenaged boys, in all racial and ethnic groups, are more likely to die from gunshot wounds than from all natural deaths combined. They contend that homicide is the second leading cause of death among teens, after suicide, and in 8 states, firearms surpassed automobiles as the leading injury-related killers of both adults and children. Research conducted by the Department of Justice over the last 30 years showed that the average cost of incarcerating juveniles for one year is approximately \$54,000”. (Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, 1995) Criminologist James Fox, of “Northeastern University, predicts that crimes committed by teenagers will skyrocket as the 39 million children now under age 10 swell the ranks of teenagers by 20% in the first decade of the 21st century. While many lament the crisis of violence and juvenile crime, a close review indicates that early prevention programs and well-structured community-based programs are effective as a reduction strategy”. (Jones & Krisberg, 1994)

Review of Literature:

Juvenile delinquency is a negative consequence of rapid industrialization and urbanization in the unorganized social system of the modern world. Rapid changes in family structure, dangerous environment in cities and slums, and anarchy and frustration in social life are the main reasons for the increase in juvenile delinquency. The tidal wave of bad culture is also largely responsible for this.

Rabindranath Tagore said, "There is no such thing as thirteen and fourteen years."

Children of this age have indomitable hope and curiosity about the world of life. Many times their lives fall into the darkness of despair due to the pain of hopelessness due to the unfavorable environment. In this, teenagers gradually become delinquent. Juvenile delinquency poses a hindrance to the overall welfare of the country and nation. Juvenile delinquency is an act against the prevailing values and norms of society committed by juveniles. But social values vary from state to state, city, village or region. Actions or behaviors that are against values and principles in one society may not be so in another society. Criminologist Bisler said - Juvenile delinquency is the illegal intervention of minors on the prevailing social norms. Again criminologist Burt said - a child should be considered a criminal only when his antisocial acts or criminal tendencies require legal action. Basically, the special type of unusual and anti-social acts committed by teenagers is called juvenile delinquency.

Objectives:

- 1) Familial variables, such as permissive or aggressive parents, unstable communities, and delinquent peer groups, all have a role in the development of violent and criminal behaviour in youth.
- 2) Second, the majority of aggressive actions are habits that people acquire over time. Witnessing physical abuse or other forms of domestic violence at a young age might expose children to these harmful behaviours.

Methodology:

Considering the objectives and nature of the study secondary sources of data have been used in the current study. Related articles, journals and books have been followed for gathering required information. Internet sources have also been used as a major source of information for the study.

Juvenile:

Anyone not yet eighteen years old is considered a juvenile. A child's right to liberty cannot be legally taken away until a certain age is determined by legislation. A juvenile is a person under the age of majority who has not yet reached the legal age of majority and may therefore be held legally liable for their unlawful actions. A juvenile is a minor who is believed to have committed a crime as a result of some failure on the part of the accused. The words "juvenile" and "minor" have several meanings in jail slang. While "minor" denotes a person's level of maturity or competency while incarcerated, "juvenile" is used to describe a younger criminal. Using all available resources to emphasise that methods might work. For pragmatic reasons, the concept of the juvenile differs from country to country. It was passed in 1960: A "child" is defined as a male or female who has not yet attained the age of sixteen as stated in Section 2(e) of the Act. Convention of the United Nations: A person is considered a "child" under the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child if they are under the age of eighteen or until they attain the legal age of majority, whichever comes first. December 16, 2012, was the start of the Nirbhaya Delhi Gang Rape Case, an unexpected event that rocked the whole state and ignited several debates among leftists and criminal specialists. The term "child" is defined as an individual under the legal age of majority, which is earlier than the age of 18, according to the 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. December 16, 2012, was the start of the Nirbhaya Delhi Gang Rape Case, an unexpected event that rocked the whole state and ignited several debates among leftists and criminal specialists. The accused's participation, which became most effective six months prior to their eighteenth birthday, provided the fundamental basis for the disagreement. Because of the accused's role in this heinous rape, the Indian Parliament was compelled to adopt a new legislation known as the "J.J.(Care and Protection), 2015". Defence based on age A number of socialists and members of the criminal network saw the "claim of juvenility" as their most fundamental and controversial issue. Juvenility determinations are made by the JJ Board. The Board should make a decision on the declaration of juvenility before the court procedures begin, but it may be brought up before the court at any point during the proceedings, even after the Board has addressed the case.

Juvenile Delinquency:

When a minor, defined as someone between the ages of 10 and 17, participates in criminal behaviour, we say that they are a juvenile delinquent. The word "delinquent" is used when someone's behaviour differs from what is expected in a typical social setting. Anyone under the age of eighteen who acts in a way that might hurt himself or others is considered a juvenile delinquent. Juvenile delinquents are defined as males and females aged 18 and younger who perpetrate criminal acts. Any younger youngster who consistently disobeys adults or shows no signs of improvement is considered a juvenile delinquent. In the case of Gopinath Ghosh v. State of West Bengal, the defendant argued that he had grown older than the legal age of majority. Conversely, the court now not only permitted the first-ever plea of infant repute in this instance,

but it also directed the matter to the session's select for a determination of the accused's age. In the case of *Rajinder Chandra v. State of Chhattisgarh*, the Supreme Court upheld this method and established that the standard for determining age is the degree of likelihood, not proof beyond a reasonable doubt. The date of the offence must be considered when determining the age of a juvenile, according to the court in *Krishna Bhagwan v. State of Bihar*. The Supreme Court's previous decision in *Arnit Das vs. State of Bihar* was overturned, as it was maintained that the accused must be brought before the proper authorities on the day to decide on a declaration of juvenility.

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency:

Peer Group:

Peer group influence plays an important role in juvenile delinquency. Adolescents at this age want to be free from the influence of the family and become independent, mixing with neighbors, playmates and peers. Through this kind of relationship, children and adolescents can learn things very easily and spontaneously, which cannot be done from parents, relatives or family members. So, if any of the partners are dishonest or criminal, under their influence, teenagers often become criminal.

Weakness of Educational Institutions:

After the role of family in the social environment, the influence of educational institutions is very important in the life of children and adolescents. But in today's rapidly changing society, the underlying significance of education at primary and secondary levels such as teacher's subject knowledge, honesty, sincerity, mutual cordial relationship between students and teachers, moral and social values of students are practically absent in these institutions. Also the lack of constructive entertainment, sports facilities for students and unbiased view of teachers is also evident. Therefore, if the curriculum and educational system of the educational institution is not suitable for the taste and ability of the children and adolescents, dissatisfaction arises among them and they try to get their emotional satisfaction through various criminal behaviors. For example, they run away from school and roam the streets and get involved in various crimes including eviction, suicide, drug taking and selling.

Social Exploitation Deprivation:

In today's complex socio-economic system, adolescents who fail to take up appropriate education, training and occupation are victims of social exploitation deprivation due to their inability to adjust themselves. As a result, they develop deep depression and despondency, which at one point turns into resentment and anger against society. In such a situation, these failed teenagers break social norms and indulge in criminal behavior.

Influence of mass media:

In the present era of information technology, mass media such as radio, television, internet, newspapers, magazines and social media such as mobile, Facebook, Twitter, blog, YouTube greatly influence children and teenagers. Therefore, if the parents are not aware enough about the use of the said media, young children and adolescents may indulge in crime. Especially magazines and newspapers full of ugly sexual emotions create adverse reactions on the minds of teenagers. Sexually appealing programs shown on television in the name of sexual movies, commercials, fashion shows mislead the emotional youth by creating great tension and stress.

Drug Addiction:

Addiction to drugs also gives rise to juvenile delinquency in many cases. Many teenagers may engage in a variety of serious crimes in order to raise money to purchase drugs. Also, due to the involvement of teenagers in drug trafficking and marketing activities, social peace and order may deteriorate and various types of crimes may occur. That is why drugs are said to be the root of all kinds of bad deeds. A drug addict loses self-control and has mental and physical breakdowns. As a result, he got involved in big social crimes like theft, robbery, women and children torture, violence, extortion, suicide, pickpocketing etc. Above all drug addiction diverts people from remembrance of Allah and prayers and destroys social values by creating mutual enmity. Family ignorance is the biggest cause of juvenile delinquency. As in industrialized and capitalist societies, the horrors of juvenile delinquency are increasing in today's underdeveloped societies. Although the trend of juvenile delinquency is on the rise, the trend has increased unimaginably in recent times. In society, depression, lawlessness and poverty are the main causes of juvenile delinquency. Inhumane living in the polluted environment of the city and illiteracy, hunger, poverty make the youth commit crimes like theft, robbery, pickpocketing. Basically, the main causes of juvenile delinquency as a whole are- ● Broken families and parental marital discord where passion, love and security are lacking ● Extreme poverty and parental neglect Child labor and forced child labor ● Moving with bad partners ● Family instability and disharmony ● Father or mother Remarriage ● Lack of adequate childcare as mothers are working, ● Excessive discipline, conservatism and conflicting mentality of parents, use of teenagers in picketing by selfish and philandering politicians, lack of social, religious and moral education and, penetration of bad culture etc.

Environmental Affect of Juvenile Delinquency:

It has become easier to identify juvenile offenders in high-profile incidents in recent years. Such a subject is both relevant and harmful in Georgia right now. For this reason, it is instructive to study the causes of juvenile delinquency, methods for preventing it, resources for rehabilitating juveniles, and initiatives in this field. Many things come together to cause the crime. It consists of interrelated psychological and social factors that influence behavioral majority of Kutaisi poll takers believe that an individual's familial ties are a factor in a juvenile offender's criminal behaviour. A lack of parental attention, in their opinion, is the root cause of adolescent delinquency. Children whose parents work overseas may "go astray" if they are exposed to the wrong crowd, according to the respondents. Without a safe place to call home, children living on the streets are vulnerable. Additional factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency include exposure to violent or traumatic experiences as a child, acting out in imitation of criminal role models, etc. Attempting to evaluate the variables mentioned by the Kutaisi respondents and provide an explanation of the situations that might lead to juvenile criminality is what we shall do here. Among the many schools of thought in psychology, Social Learning Theory stands out as an attempt to pin down the origins of human behaviour. This school of thought holds that criminal behaviour is often an emotional reaction to some traumatic experience. According to the most well-known proponent of this idea, A. Bandura, aggressiveness and violent tendencies are learnt behaviours, not inherent traits. In most cases, this idea does in fact explain what led to the crime. More so when dealing with children.

Discussion:

A clear concept has been given in various laws about teenagers. The Majority Act, 1975 states that a child of 18 years is a minor. According to the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 1929, all children are below 21 years of age if male and below 18 years of age if female.

The Children Act, 2013 states that all persons below the age of 18 years shall be deemed to be children. According to the Bangladesh Labor Act, 2006 a person who has passed 14 years but not passed 18 years is considered a child. According to the Penal Code, 1860, persons aged 9-12 years are children. Again, the constitution considers 18-year-old children as adults and gives them the right to vote. According to various criminologists, children between the ages of 12-20 are considered children. That is, crimes committed by

persons between the ages of 12-16 years and in some cases between the ages of 9-16 years are juvenile crimes. Child crime is increasing day by day. It is especially prevalent in urban areas. Again no proper law has been made to curb this crime. However, with some awareness and responsibility, these crimes can be reduced. I can highlight two areas as a solution. It is preventive and remedial. A child learns first from the family. So, parents must take care that there is no negative impact on the child. You should also pay attention to who the child is mixing with. Moral education is desirable. Children should be kept away from mobile phone internet usage. Even if the use is allowed, they should be monitored for what they are actually using the Internet or phone. Children should always be treated gently, so that they do not have a negative impact on their minds.

Conclusion:

A child's surroundings may have a significant role in triggering negative behaviour. Juvenile misbehaviour is typically caused by a lack of social support or intellectual achievement. Children may get involved in illegal activities due to living in an unsafe neighbourhood or experiencing poverty. Family dynamics (both permissive and violent), community instability, and the presence of delinquent peers are environmental variables that amplify the risk of criminal behaviour and aggression among youth. Aggression is mostly a learnt behaviour. Witnessing physical abuse or other forms of domestic violence may expose children at a young age. Juveniles are most likely to become delinquents if they experience parental rejection, grow up in households with high levels of conflict, and lack proper supervision. It seems that the variance in delinquent behaviour is best explained by the interplay of hereditary and environmental variables. Issues with attachment may hinder a child's emotional development and increase their risk of mental health problems in the future if they grow up in a family where stability is lacking. If the economy is in a precarious position, those kids won't be able to afford the treatment they need, which compounds the problem. The institutions used for treatment and rehabilitation of youths involved with the juvenile court system should not be places of terror for them. But many young people are being held in situations that are cruel, illegal, and abusive. Protected against assault, unclean circumstances, and insufficient access to counsel are the rights of detained and committed juveniles who need education, treatment, healthcare, and legal representation. Subjecting kids to such severe confinement circumstances is associated with an increase in recidivism and violent crime, according to research. Inadequacies in the treatment of juvenile offenders pose an additional danger to the safety of our children, families, and communities in a world where crime and violence are pervasive.

If you are serious about helping kids in correctional and detention institutions throughout the nation get better treatment, *Beyond the Walls* is a must-read. For the purpose of protecting and preserving the rights of incarcerated adolescents, it is intended to serve as a reference for youth activists, parents, lawyers, and programme administrators. Despite the lack of a comprehensive list, this paper does provide six essential measures that help address the significant challenges faced by juvenile offenders. Learn how to make a difference in the lives of the youth entrusted to our nation's care by utilizing the methods discussed in this book. These methods include the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, ombudsman programmes, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, protection and advocacy systems, the Administrative Procedure Acts, and self-assessment.

References:

- Ashford, J.B., Lecroy, C.W. &Lortie, K.L. (1997). Human behavior in the social environment a multidimensional perspective, *Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks and Cole Publishing Company*.
- Berton, M. W., &Stabb, S.D. (1996). Exposure to Violence and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Lürban *Adolescents. Adolescence*, 31, 489-499
- Bilchik, S. (1995). *Delinquency Prevention Works*, Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice

- Blanchard, K. & Peale, N. (1988). The power of ethical management. *New York: William Morrow and Company.*
- Boss, P. (1967). Social Policy and the Young Delinquent, *New York: Humanities Press*
- Bouchard, T. (1997). Twins as a Tool of Behavior Genetics, *New York: John Wiley & Son.*
- Buka, S., & Earls, F. (1993). Early Determinants of Delinquency and Violence *Health Affairs*, 12(4), 46-64.
- Carstens, S.J. (1994). A "Grass Roots" collaborative effort to prevent truancy in a suburban school district. A Doctoral Project (pp. 1-132), *Crystal, MN: Susan J. Carstens.*
- Cohen, M.A. (1994). The Monetary Value of Saving a High Risk Youth Paper supported by the National Institute of Justice. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Crime Prevention Coalition (1992) Crime Prevention in America, Foundations for Action, In (Ed.), Crime Prevention. Washington, D.C.. Crime Prevention Coalition. Department of Justice (1995). Family Life, Delinquency, and Crime. Washington, DC: Department of Justice.
- Dornbusch, S.M. (1985) Single Parents, Extended Households, and the Control of Adolescents. *Child Development*, 56, 326-341.
- Drowns, R. W & Hess, K. M. (1990). Juvenile justice, St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company.
- Earls, F.J., & Reiss, A.J. (1994). Breaking the cycle. Predicting and preventing crime, *Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice.*
- Elliott, D.S. & Voss, H.L. (1974). Delinquency and dropout, Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.
- Fine, B. (1955). 1,000,000 Delinquents, New York: *The World Publishing Company.*
- Friedman, A.S., Glickman, N., & Utada, a. (1985). Does drug and alcohol use lead to failure to graduate from high school? *Journal of Drug Education*, 15, 353-364.
- Germain, C. (1969). Social work practice: People and environments. In (Ed.). Ecology and social work (pp. 1-22). *New York: Columbia University Press.*
- Germain, C. (1991). Human behavior in the social environment: An ecological view, *New York: Columbia University Press*
- Glueck, S., & Glueck, E. (1962). Family Environment and Delinquency, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- Glueck, S., & Glueck, E. (1972). Identification of Predelinquents, *New York: Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation.*
- Gordon, W.R., & Caltabiano, M.L. (1996). Urban-Rural Differences in Adolescent self-esteem. *Adolescence*, 31, 883-902
- Grande, C.G. (1988). Delinquency: The learning disabled student's reaction to academic school failure. *Adolescence*, 89, 209-219.
- Hartman, A. & Laird, J. (1983). Family Centered Social Work Practice, *New York: The Free Press.*
- Hawkins, J.D., & Catalano, R.F. (1992). Communities that Care, San Francisco, CA: *Jossey-Bass.*

- Hawkins, J.D., Catalano, R.F., & Brewer, D.D. (1995). Preventing Serious, Violent and Chronic Juvenile Offending. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Washington, D.C: U.S. Department of Justice.
- Henggeler, S.W. (1989) Delinquency in Adolescence. *Newbury Park: Sage*.
- Huizinga, D., Loeber, R., &Thomberry, T.P. (1994). Urban Delinquency.and Substance Abuse, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Justice
- Jaffe, P., Wolfe, D., Wilson, S., & Zak, L. (1986). Similarities in Maladjustment among Child Victims and Witness to Family Violence. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 56(1), 142-146.
- Kazdin, A.E. (1994). Interventions for Aggressive and Anti-Social Children. In L.D. Eron, J.H. Gentry & P. Schlegel (Eds). Reason to Hope: A Psychosocial Perspective on Violence and Youth Washington, DC: *American Psychological Association*.
- Lipsey, M.W. (1984). Is Delinquency Prevention a cost-effective Strategy? *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 21(4).
- Loeber, R., & Dishion, T.1. (1983). Early Predictors of Male Delinquency. *Psychology Bulletin*, 94(1), 68-99.
- Matsueda, R.L., &Heimer, K. (1987). Race, Family Structure and Delinquency. *American Sociological Review*, 52, 826-840.
- McCord, W. & Sanchez, J. (1983). The treatment of deviant children: A twenty five year follow-up study. *Crime and Delinquency*, 29, 238-253
- McKiman, D. J., & Johnson, T. (1986). Alcohol and drug use among "street" adolescents. *Addictive Behaviors*, 11, 201-205,

Citation: Bag. M. & Bala. Dr. S., (2024) “Causes of Juvenile Delinquency and its Impact on the Environment”, *Bharati International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Development (BIJMRD)*, Vol-2, Issue-3, April-2024.